

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12
EB-08 AID-05 /089 W
-----058689 081143Z/15

O R 081042Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5362
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFAE

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, US, GR, TU
SUBJ: CARAMANLIS SPEAKS OUT ON EMBARGO

REF: ATHENS 2918

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ISSUED HIS FIRST PUBLIC
STATEMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO SEEK THE
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO THE EVENING OF APRIL 7 AND IT IS
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THE LEAD STORY IN THE PRESS, RADIO AND TV TODAY
APRIL 8. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS ENTITLED
TO DETERMINE ITS RELATIONS WITH TURKEY ACCORDING TO
ITS JUDGMENT. BUT IT CANNOT DO SO IN A MANNER HARMFUL
TO THE INTERESTS OF GREECE OR CYPRUS. SPECIFICALLY

WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS, THE PROBLEM WAS FURTHER
COMPLICATED RATHER THAN HELPED TOWARDS A SOLUTION FOR
WANT OF A STABLE BRACKETS OR STEADY BRACKETS AND CONSISTENT
POLICY ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. IN ANY CASE, AND
REGARDLESS OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL SHAPE
ITS POLICY, GREECE IS DETERMINED AND ABLE TO PROTECT
HER NATIONAL INTERESTS. END QUOTE

2. IN ADDITION, THE OFFICIAL GOG SPOKESMAN HAS DENIED
OPPOSITION AND PRESS CHARGES THAT THE GOG HAD EARLIER
AVOIDED TAKING A STAND ON THE USG DECISION TO SEEK
REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO. THE SPOKESMAN POINTED TO
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AVEROFF'S STATEMENT OF APRIL 2
CRITICIZING THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL AS WELL AS
PRIVATE DEMARCHEs TO THE USG WHICH, THE SPOKESMAN SAID,
WERE ALONG THE LINES OF CARAMANLIS' PUBLIC DECLARATION.
THE SPOKESMAN ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO
DISCUSSION OF THE EMBARGO QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT,
AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. THE SPOKESMAN SAID RATHER
THAN A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE, WHICH OPPOSITION LEADERS
ON THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT ARE SEEKING, CARAMANLIS
WOULD BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF PARTY LEADERS TO BRIEF
THEM ON THE SUBJECT.

3. THE ONLY POLITICAL LEADER TO REACT THUS FAR TO
CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT WAS ZIGDIS OF THE UNION OF THE
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DEMOCRATIC CENTER WHO STATED THAT HE WAS NOT AT ALL
SATISFIED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

4. THE APRIL 8 PRESS IS COMPLETELY DOMINATED BY
THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT AND
UNANIMOUSLY APPLAUDS IT, EVEN PAPERS WHICH NORMALLY
OPPOSE CARAMANLIS. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS
EMPHASIZE HIS ASSERTION THAT GREECE WILL
PROTECT ITS INTERESTS WHILE THE OPPOSITION--AND ANTI-
AMERICAN--PRESS IS PLAYING UP HIS IMPLICATION THAT THE
U.S. IS DAMAGING GREEK INTERESTS.

5. THE ONLY OTHER PRESS STORY WORTHY OF SPECIAL NOTICE
IS A TO VIMA REPORT THAT INCLUDES THE ASSERTION BY
THE PAPER'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT, EFSTATHIADIS, THAT
HE WAS TOLD BY A TURKISH DIPLOMAT THAT SECRETARY
VANCE HAD REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE TURKISH CYPRIOT
PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS WHICH HE FOUND TO BE "CONSTRUCTIVE." SO FAR
NONE OF THE NEWSPAPERS HAS CARRIED ANY COMMENT ON THE
SECRETARY'S REMARKS IN HIS HIRC STATEMENT THAT THE
U.S. WOULD OPPOSE MILITARY SOLUTIONS TO DISPUTES IN
THE EASTERN MEDITTERANEAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS EMBARGO, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS02927
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780152-0515
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780478/aaaacoil.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 36b6aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 2918
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3031500
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARAMANLIS SPEAKS OUT ON EMBARGO
TAGS: PEPR, US, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/36b6aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014